

Minutes CC [February 28, 2017](#) MEETING

Present: Chiariello, DeStaebler, Eckstrom, Heiple, Murphy, Salah, Walz

Absent: Bourne, Plunder,

Also Present: John Richards, Council Liaison

1. Call to Order 7:31
2. Oral Communications -
 - a. deStaebler Town Ad Hoc committee on Affordable Housing meeting reviewed Town owned properties and divided them into groups of impossible to build, possible but not desirable and possible. The latter group includes several properties that had been recommended to be set aside as open space by this committee in 2010.
 - b. Eckstrom had written report of subcommittee created at Public Works request to evaluate the Town Center Oak Grove and screening of tennis courts/playing fields. This was submitted July 2014. He recently did a follow up examination of the area and distributed to us by email a summary of what had and had not been done. See Appendix A. Murphy will review this with Young at their monthly meeting.
3. Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2017 with minor corrections unanimously.
4. Current Site Permits - subcommittees to report
 - a. deStaebler suggests we expand Town discouraged plant list and include a link to CAL-Invasive Plant Council list cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/
 - b. Revised boilerplate distributed

5. Old Business

- a. Wells - Bourne nothing new
- b. Ban on Poison bait - Chiarriello met with Town Manager Dennis to review our report. Staff will review and this will be presented to Council when staff report is finished - late March or early April. It is suggested we might do a pilot on a single field and Town Center first.
- c. BYH - deStaebler
 - i. 1 application pending.
 - ii. We will advertise at Garden Tour.
 - iii. Eastmans sent thanks for our personal group delivery and celebration of their BYH Award.
- d. Tip of Month - deStaebler/Salah will do on habitat is all around.
 - i. We discussed doing a What's Blooming This Week posting with a picture on the Forum every week or so.
 - ii. We will bring a living example of a wildflower in bloom in a jar for Town Center desk. This week - Murphy and deStaebler will provide Hound's tongue. We will explore having a rotating picture display that changes monthly to highlight what is blooming that month. Salah will look for hardware.
- e. Kudos of the Month - after broom pull
- f. Broom Pull Sunday March 5, 2017. Tasks reviewed
- g. Monarch milkweed project - Heiple has asked Acterra to grow us some to plant in the fall.
- h. Local Native seed collection - nothing new
- i. Committee/Town cooperation
 - i. Public Works
 - 1. Native plant garden and Town Center

plantings will be weeded to look their best for April 2 PV Garden Tour.

2. Springdown pond restoration should be completed this October.
 3. Thickening growth along fence in front of MROSD meadow should be attended to before gets bigger and more difficult.
- ii. Brochure for Town Center Plantings finalized. Chiariello will have them printed.
 - iii. Town Center Master Planning Committee Salah reports they met and finalized presentation to be given to Town Council.
 - iv. Town Water Conservation Demo Project on hold because of other more urgent concerns of Town. Rain barrels, greywater possibilities.
 - v. Water Conservation Committee
 1. Water-wise Garden tour Sunday 4/2
 - a. Conservation will have a table at Schoolhouse
 - vi. Earth Fair Runnymede 4/22 Conservation table. We need to register.
- j. Weed seedling info sheet - Heiple will send completed to Carol.
 - k. Town evening on "Care of Trees" with Fire District - Enea has not contacted Plunder or Heiple
 - l. Encouraging landscape architects to consider Town guidelines from the beginning of their design process. Murphy, Salah and Richards met with Town Manager. A form already exists that is given to residents/architects as their projects begin. It appears that scant attention is often paid to this. We suggest a sign off be required stating that they have received and read this as permitting starts. Richards will get us the latest version of this list

and we will review and suggest check off language.

- m. Relationships with HOAs. Salah suggests that we connect with HOAs and offer to be a resource for them for planting and stewardship.

6. New Business

- a. Fire clearing on Alpine Road - Young and Dennis have meeting scheduled with Enea to discuss the need for specific prior notice and proper supervision of workers.

7. Adjournment 9:15

8. Next Meeting 3/28/2017, 7:30 pm

Submitted by Judith Murphy

Appendix A

Report of Subcommittee on Renovation of Town Center Oak Grove
Don Eckstrom
July 18, 2014
UPDATE Feb.4, 2017

A subcommittee consisting of Paul Heiple, Marianne Plunder, and Don Eckstrom visited the site along Portola Road between the old school house and lane to the tennis courts and service yard on April 22, 2014. This area is primarily an open oak woodland with oak trees ranging from saplings to massive old specimens. Two old and very large oaks have dropped limbs and have subsequently been cut down in the last two years, and the objective of this subcommittee is to recommend maintenance and renewal procedures for this important area.

The subcommittee recommends the following steps:

1. To reduce the risk of limb failure, a qualified arborist should be hired to lighten the limbs on the very large live oak in the center of the grove (Tree "A" on the attached map). This must be done very judiciously so as to not degrade the beauty of this majestic tree.

- STATUS:** No evidence that this has been done.
2. Replace lost trees by planting clusters of acorns in the two locations marked “B” and “C” on the map this fall. Acorns should be a mix of valley oak, coast live oak, and black oak, and are to be collected from existing oaks on site or from nearby trees. Planting locations (1.5-ft diameter) to be immediately surrounded with a 2-ft diameter screen cages to mark the planting locations and to protect the sprouts from future mowing. Seedlings to be thinned in two to three years, leaving only one strongest specimen.
STATUS: Plantings were done within screened cages in two locations in late 2014. As of fall 2016 only one coast live oak seedling has appeared. Additional acorns were collected on site and dropped into the cage centers at that time. No evidence yet seen that any of these acorns has sprouted.
 3. Add low-growing screening plants in zigzag row along side of tennis courts facing Portola Road (marked “D” on the map, see Photo 1) and on the street side of the trail where the ball field is readily visible from the street (marked “E” on the map, see Photo 2). These plants must remain low (10’ – 15’) so that they screen the athletic areas without blocking the view of the hills from the street and the higher portions of the grove. Toyons are the screening plant of choice for the tennis courts, and a combination of prunus illicifolia, coffeeberry, and sugar bush (rhus ovata) are recommended for screening the ball field because of the higher moisture level there.
STATUS: This has not been done.
 4. There are currently 4 young oaks growing in the corner between the tennis courts and the ball field (location “F”). At least 2 of these should be removed to allow the remaining tree(s) to have room to grow. It is probably prudent to remove all 3 of the trees growing closest to the tennis courts, as they will become a litter problem as they grow to extend over the courts.
STATUS: None of the trees has been removed.
 5. A cluster of trees, small to medium sized, is growing at location “G”. We recommend that the 4” live oak closest to the street be removed to give preference to the adjacent valley oaks. We also recommend that the small oaks below the crown of the larger trees be removed to give preference to the co-mingled toyons. Finally, the cotoneaster and poison oak must be removed.
STATUS: The 4” live oak has been cut off at ground level and has not re-sprouted. The other actions appear to have been completed as well.
 6. At location “H”, the small oaks should be removed to favor the manzanitas growing nearby. Again, co-mingled poison oak should be removed.
STATUS: This appears to have been done.

We feel that these steps will provide a balance between maintaining an impressive oak woodland, screening of athletic facilities, and retaining some open views of the mountainsides.

A subcommittee member should be consulted on the exact locations described above.

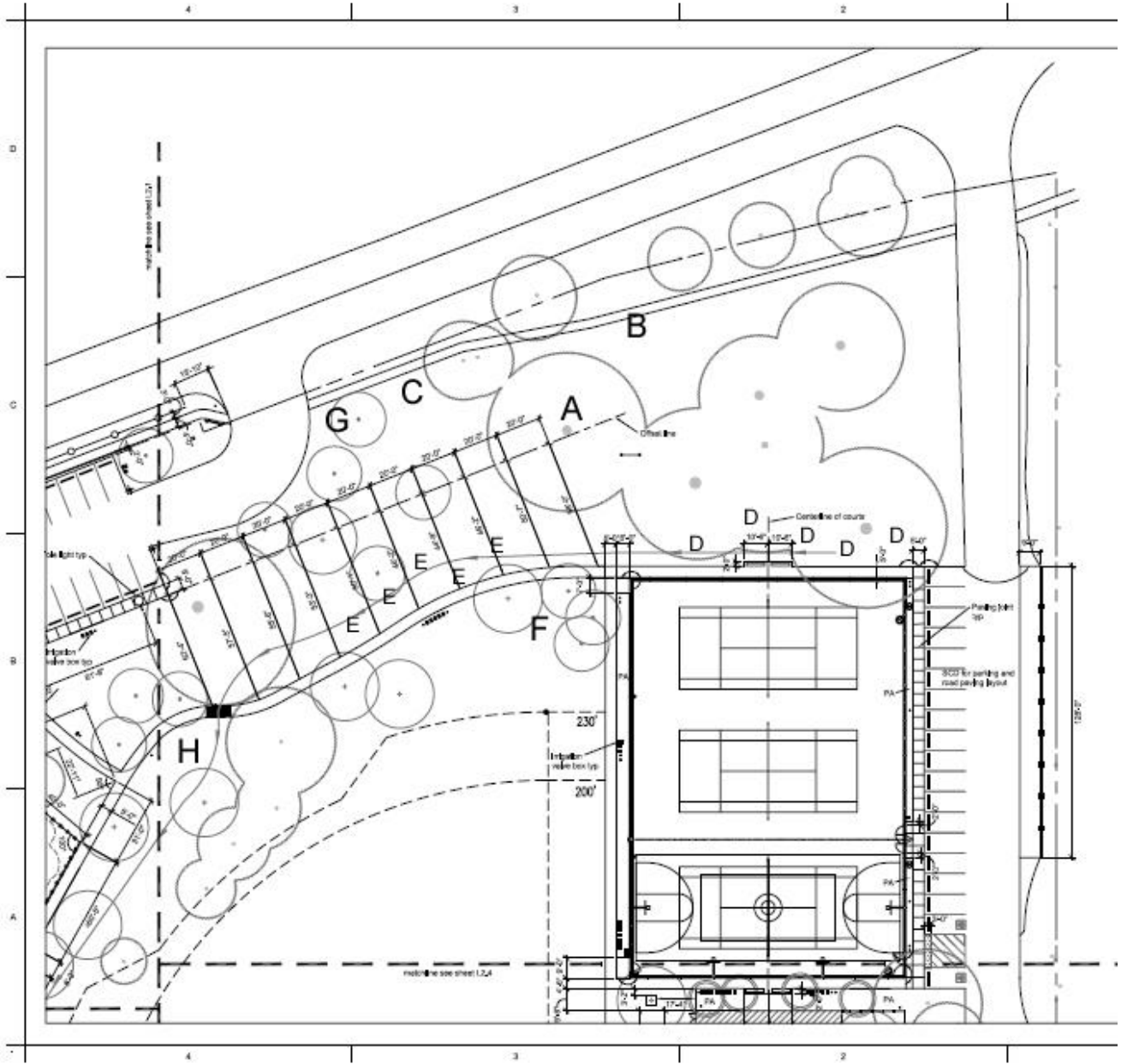


Photo 1: Tennis courts needing screening

Photo 2: Ball field needing screening